

Sandanwede  
Hulbert Avenue  
Nantucket  
Nantucket County  
Massachusetts

HABS No. MASS-968

HABS  
MASS  
10-NANT  
70-

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D. C. 20240

## SANDANWEDE

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Location: On north side of Hulbert Avenue, corner of Dix Street, between the Cliff and Brant Point near the present Jetties Bathing Beach, Nantucket, Massachusetts. Also known as the Stiefel House.

Present Owner: Mrs. Walther A. Stiefel

Present Occupant: Mrs. Stiefel

Present Use: Summer home

Brief Statement of Significance: One of the few remaining examples of the large summer cottages built in Nantucket at the end of the nineteenth century.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

## A. Physical History:

## 1. Original and subsequent owners:

- 1872 -- Henry Coleman, Charles C. Mooers and Elijah H. Alley bought from George Easton forty acres of land "between Brant Point Light and the vicinity of the Bug Lights beneath the Cliff" for \$500 for land development purposes. This included all of the present area known as Beachside from the present bathing beach to Easton Street.
- 1880 -- Edwin J. and Frances C. Hulbert, husband and wife, of Middletown, Conn., purchased a piece of the above property 200 feet square, described as situated between the Cliff and Brant Point on the northwest corner of Bay Avenue and Dix Street. (Note: Bay Avenue at that time ran between the house and the water. It was later added to the property, extending it to the water.) (See Plat, Book 66, Page 216, Registry Deeds, Nantucket, Mass.)
- 1880 -- Three days later the land was conveyed from Edwin J. and Frances C. Hulbert to James B. Thayer and Lemuel Shaw, Trustees.

1911 -- Allen S. Hulbert was deeded the property by the Trustees.

1914 -- Mary Allen Hulbert by deed from Allen S. Hulbert.

1916 -- Mary Gould Luther bought property from Mary Allen Hulbert.

1920 -- Carl F. Stiefel bought from Mary Gould Luther.

1920 -- Two months later Antonie Lisette Philippine Stiefel was deeded the property by her husband, Carl F. Stiefel.

1923 -- Elsa B. Thorling by deed from her mother, Antonie Stiefel.

1926 -- Property was Land Courted: L. C. Plan 10772 A.

1934 -- Walther A. Stiefel by deed from his sister Elsa.

to date -- Mrs. Walther A. Stiefel inherited.

2. Date of erection: 1881.  
(Abstract: Records Registry Deeds, Nantucket. Alao, "1881 - Hulbert Cottage on Beachside was erected this year" -- Argument Settlers, Turner, 1966)
3. Architect: No record of an architect's name. It is believed by Mr. Allen Hulbert that his grandfather, Edwin J. Hulbert, "probably indulged himself in drawing plans for construction by Nantucketers, a monument to their excellence as I feel the house is as structurally sound as the day it was built."
4. Original plans, construction, etc.: The house as originally built (now the western section) was about two-thirds its present size, with only two chimneys instead of three. (Abstract: Stereopticon slide, c. 1885 - Nantucket Historical Association)
5. Notes on alterations and additions: The east section and another chimney were added to the house prior to 1911. In 1910-1911 bathrooms were installed and one chimney was later sealed.

Since then it has been little changed, with the exception of a recently added first floor bedroom on the south side where the veranda extended around the house.

- B. Historical Events Connected with the Structure: One of the first houses to be built on Beachside, this is also one of the last architecturally interesting houses of that period still standing and occupied. It is noteworthy that less than a century ago the whole of Beachside sold for \$500, while today it is one of the most valuable tracts on Nantucket with many fine summer homes.

Mr. Edwin J. Hulbert was the discoverer and operator of the Calumet and Hecla Copper Mine at the time he built the house. Later a suit in connection with the mine so disgusted him that he decided to reside in Rome, Italy, where he remained until his death. The street upon which this house stands extends parallel to the shore from Brant Point to the Jetties and is named Hulbert Avenue. (Abstract; Recent Correspondence with Mr. Allen Hulbert)

C. Sources of Information:

1. Old Views: Plat, Book 66, Page 216, Registry Deeds, Nantucket, Mass.; Stereopticon slide ca. 1885, by J. Freeman, showing Bay Street between house and water, and the house before east end was added in the collection of the Nantucket Historical Association; view of house in "106 Views of Nantucket" by Robinson, 1911; two snapshots of house ca. 1911 owned by Mr. Allen Hulbert; photograph 1918 in "100 Years on Nantucket," Inquirer and Mirror, 1921.

Prepared by Mrs. Marie M. Coffin  
Nantucket, Massachusetts  
September, 1969

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural Character: Excellent and rare example of early vacation houses on Nantucket for the summer visitor to the Island; a shingled wood frame raised cottage with a complicated hip roof caused by an irregular plan, porches at all elevations, brick chimneys with ceramic pots.
2. Condition of fabric: Modifications include changes in roof structure to accommodate additions at east and south elevations, revision of interior spaces, addition of a chimney.

B. Description of the Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions, including porches: 72' - 0" by 102' - 0".

2. Foundations: Brick piers and foundation walls; wood screen hides spaces at ground level, horizontal slats painted green.
3. Wall construction: Weathered wood shingles, 5" average exposure, wood frame.
4. Structural system: Wood pine frame, mortise and tenon and butt joints; joists at 16" o.c. average.
5. Chimneys: Two brick chimneys three flues each, one (not original) of two flues, ceramic chimney pots.
6. Stairways: Exterior stairways at southeast corner, south elevations, north elevations (entrance) and west (service) entrance; stairways appear to be recent wood constructions, straight runs.
7. Porches: Wide porches at all elevations, exposed framing and underside of roof sheathing painted blue and white; skylight in roof of east porch; porch columns are turned with fan-like brackets at two-four sides; wood balustrades of rail and vertical and staggered horizontal wood struts, turned finials; all trim painted white, show traces of red paint.
8. Openings:
  - a. Doorways and doors: None significant; variety of solid and glazed panel doors, board and batten, car siding.
  - b. Windows: Variety of six-over-six, three-over-three, one-over-one single hung windows, awning type; wood sash painted green or white; white frame and trim.
9. Roof:
  - a. Shape and covering: Hip roof, composition shingles.
  - b. Dormers: Hip and shed dormers, one and two windows per dormer.
  - c. Framing: Unexposed.
  - d. Eaves: Boxed with simple cornice and sheet metal gutters and downspouts.
10. Exterior ornament: Triangular intersection between irregular hip roofs decorated with wood panel in a fan-like bas relief; ceramic finials, crown-like in form, placed on posts of projecting screen between ground and first floors.

C. Description of the Interior:

1. Floor Plans:

- a. Ground Floor: Variety of enclosed spaces for storage, work area, mechanical equipment, wine cellar, service, etc.; access from exterior, kitchen, and stairway below principal stair.
- b. First Floor: Principal entrance at north (Nantucket Sound and beach) elevation with stairway to screened porch, glazed porch to the west, entrance doorway to parlor and stairway to second floor; owners' suite; sitting room, dining room and kitchen services to the west; service stairway to second floor and to ground floor off passage between dining room and kitchen.
- c. Second Floor: This level consists of five bed rooms, three baths and miscellaneous storage and service rooms connected by a central hall; all spaces shaped by contour of irregular roof, forming sloping ceilings and irregular walls.

2. Stairways:

- a. Principal stairway, first to second floor; three irregular straight runs, two landings; wood risers, treads, stringers, turned balusters two/tread molded handrail; stairway to ground floor below this stairway.
- b. Service stairway to second floor: "U" shaped stairway with winders.
- c. Service stairway to ground floor: "L" shaped, wood and masonry construction.

3. Flooring: Wood strips and boards.

4. Doors: Variety of glazed and wood panel doors, four-panel average; glazed doors fifteen lights each, two per major openings.

5. Wall and ceiling finish: Plaster.

6. Decorative features: None.

7. Notable hardware: None.

8. Lighting: Electric, some original fixtures.

9. Heating: Modern steam system with radiators; fireplaces in living room, dining room and sitting room.

- a. Living room fireplace: Classic wood surround and mantel, brick hearth, reveals and back; iron grate, cooking crane and ash pit cover.
- b. Dining room fireplace: Classic wood surround and mantel, textured metal reveals and back (floral pattern and stylized "man in the moon" at back), iron grate, brick hearth.
- c. Sitting room fireplace: Iron front set into projecting masonry blocks, brass trim; iron reveals in floral motif, brick hearth and back, iron grate set flush into back hearth.
- d. Kitchen fireplace: Iron cook stove; inscribed "Perfect 112E, Richardson & Boynton & Co.; Pat. Feb. 9, 1886-Oct. 3, 1905."

D. Site and Surroundings:

"Sandanwede" is between Hulbert Avenue and Nantucket Sound near Breakwater Beach west of Nantucket Center. A clam-shell drive circles the house at the east, north and west, service drive and walks, garage to the west; wood fences, shrubs and trees provide privacy from the street and beach.

Prepared by F. Blair Reeves, A.I.A.  
Nantucket, Massachusetts  
September 2, 1969

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

These records were prepared for the Historic American Buildings Survey project on Nantucket, Massachusetts. They are part of a continuing HABS comprehensive survey of early architecture and urban design of Nantucket financed by a grant from the Nantucket Historical Trust.

The project was under the general supervision of James C. Massey, Chief of the Historic American Buildings Survey. Historical information was provided by Mrs. Marie M. Coffin of Nantucket, Massachusetts. Architectural description was prepared by Professor F. Blair Reeves, A.I.A., (University of Florida). Photographs are by Jack E. Boucher of Linwood, New Jersey. The material was edited for deposit in the Library of Congress by Mrs. Constance Werner Ramirez, July 1971.

Addendum to

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